

Hugh C. Thompson, Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest, is the responsible official. He can be reached by mail at 82 North 100 East, P.O. Box 580, Cedar City, Utah, 84720-0580.

The Forest Service is seeking comments from individuals, organizations, and local, state, and Federal agencies who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. Scoping notices have been sent to potentially affected persons and those currently on the Dixie National Forest mailing list that have expressed interest in timber management proposals, proposals relating to wildlife habitat modifications and Forest Plan amendments. Other interested individuals, organizations, or agencies may have their names added to the mailing list for this project at any time by submitting a request to: Phillip G. Eisenhauer, Project Environmental Coordinator, 82 North 100 East, P.O. Box 627, Cedar City, UT 84720-0627.

The analysis area includes both National Forest System lands and private lands. Proposed treatments would occur only on National Forest system lands. No federal or local permits, licenses or entitlements would be needed.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of the DEIS must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewers' position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could have been raised at the DEIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, (9th Circuit, 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at the time it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns about the proposed action, comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the

adequacy of the statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Dated: June 13, 1997.

Hugh C. Thompson,

Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest.

[FR Doc. 97-16260 Filed 6-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

I-90 Land Exchange, Wenatchee National Forest, Kittitas County, WA; Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, King and Pierce Counties, WA; and Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Cowlitz, Lewis, and Skamania Counties, WA

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: On April 28, 1997, a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the I-90 Land Exchange with the Plum Creek Lumber Company, Limited Partnership, was published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 22906). This notice announced the responsible official as Judith E. Levin, Director of Recreation, Lands, and Mineral Resources, Pacific Northwest Region. The responsibility for this Land Exchange EIS and decision has been delegated to the Forest Supervisors of the Wenatchee, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Johnston, Assistant Land Staff Officer, Wenatchee National Forest, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, Washington 98801, phone 509-664-2789.

Dated: June 16, 1997.

Cathrine L. Beaty,

Acting Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 97-16305 Filed 6-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Delegation of Authority to Regional Director of Recreation, Lands, and Mineral Resource, Pacific Northwest Region, Oregon and Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of delegation of authority.

SUMMARY: The Regional Forester of the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service has delegated authority to the Regional Director of Recreation, Lands, and Mineral Resources to issue all easements under authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1761). The delegation is being issued in a Regional Supplement to the Forest Service Manual 2700, Special Use Management, Section 2704, Responsibility.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 20, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the exercise of this delegation may be addressed to Jim Galaba, Special Uses Manager, Pacific Northwest Region, USDA, Forest Service, 333 S.W. First Street, Portland, Oregon 97208, phone 503-808-2458.

Dated: June 16, 1997.

Cathrine L. Beaty,

Acting Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 97-16306 Filed 6-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Alabama

AGENCY: Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Alabama, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Alabama for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRC in Alabama to issue conservation practice standard, Well Decommissioning (Code 351) Section IV of the FOTG.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before July 23, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to Ronnie D. Murphy, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 3381